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power of custom, that more than a third of our people should fall into the very position to which these irresistible causes would elsewhere consign them. It is true that the parallel does not hold in every respect, for it extends only from father to child; but I have met with several cases in which the successive generations, as far back as they could be traced, have belonged to the same trade; and this would happen much more frequently if the number of employments in this country were as small as in the nations among whom this hereditary law or custom obtains. It would not be an unprofitable employment to trace this parallel into all the parts of our complicated commercial and manufacturing system, and to show how vast an influence circumstances over which they have no control exercise over the destiny of our labouring classes; placing those who enjoy the great blessing of legal freedom in bonds almost as hard to break as those which bind the limbs of the slave.

Incendiarism.

THE Commitments for the Incendary Offences, now happily suppressed, which prevailed towards the end of 1843, and at the commencement of 1844, are chiefly included in the tables of the past year. The recurrence of this offence after a lapse of 13 years, the particular localities to which it was principally confined, and its atrocious character, give an interest to any particulars which throw light upon the condition of those charged with its commission; and have induced a separate calculation of their age, state of instruction, and sex.

	Numbers Committed.			Centesimal Proportion.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Aged under 10 years.....	6	0	6	2·4
„ 10 years and under 15 years.....	31	5	36	14·7
„ 15 „ 20 „.....	20	3	23	22·4
„ 20 „ 25 „.....	41	2	43	17·6
„ 25 „ 30 „.....	30	0	30	12·2
„ 30 „ 40 „.....	31	5	36	14·7
„ 40 and above.....	26	5	31	12·7
Ages not ascertained.....	7	1	8	3·3
Total.....	224	21	245	

The numbers falling under each degree of Instruction, and the proportion per cent., were as follows:—

Unable to read and write.....	68	27·8
Able to read and write imperfectly.....	142	58·0
Able to read and write well.....	25	10·2
Instruction superior to reading and writing well....	2	0·8
Instruction could not be ascertained.....	8	3·2

In these calculations, the youth of the prisoners charged with such serious offences is chiefly remarkable; nearly 40 per cent., or more than one-third the proportion on the Commitments generally, being under 20 years of age. The degrees of Instruction do not present any particular difference. The proportion of females is very small, amounting only to 9·3 per cent.; on the Commitments generally, it is 23·1 per cent.—*From Criminal Tables for 1844.*

Education among Criminals.

WITHOUT entering into the same detail as has been done with regard to the ages, it will perhaps be sufficient to make the following general comparison of the state of Instruction in the great Mining and Manufacturing Districts, and in the Metropolis, with the total of the Agricultural Counties:—

Degrees of Instruction.	Mining and Manufacturing Districts.	Agricultural Counties.	Metropolitan County.
Unable to read and write	31·6	31·4	23·2
Able to read and write imperfectly	59·5	58·9	57·1
Able to read and write well	6·6	6·7	15·8
Instruction superior to reading and writing well	0·6	0·4	0·7
Instruction could not be ascertained.....	1·7	2·6	3·7

From these results it is shown that a very great uniformity exists in the state of elementary instruction in the manufacturing and agricultural districts—an uniformity which did not appear in the calculations of former years—which were arrived at by contrasting the ten counties having the largest proportional manufacturing, with the ten having the largest proportional agricultural population. In the Metropolis, the small proportion who have not received some instruction is remarkable, when the class is considered to which the calculation refers; and so is the great proportion who are “able to read and write well,” compared with the proportion in the other counties.—*From Criminal Tables for 1844.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Eighth Ordinary Meeting, 1844-5. Monday, 16th June, 1845.

D. G. B. Mendelssohn, Professor of Statistics in the University of Bohn, was elected a Foreign Honorary Member.

The following gentlemen were admitted Fellows:—

Joseph Toynbee, Esq.	Major Wilkinson.
Thomas James Watson, Esq.	John Towne Danson, Esq.
Rev. F. C. Cooke.	Major-General William Monteith, K.L.S.

The following gentlemen were proposed for admission into the Society:—

Thomas Mullinder, Esq.	Henry Smith, Esq.
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First Ordinary Meeting, 1845-6. Monday, 24th November, 1845.

The following gentlemen were elected:—

Thomas Mullinder, Esq.	Henry Smith, Esq.
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The following gentlemen were proposed as candidates for admission into the Society:—

William Ogilby, Esq. M.A.	J. S. Goodfellow, M.D.
J. J. Sylvester, Esq.	Major Henry Berkley Henderson.
Richard Dugard Grainger, Esq.	Charles Grenville Mansell, Esq.
Henry Wildbore Rumsey, Esq.	